

16 December 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

SUBJECT : Course Report for Vietnam Orientation  
No. 11, 5 - 9 December 1966

25X1A9a 1. Course changes: The Orientation ran as scheduled except for the following changes: Messers [REDACTED] 25X1A9a  
25X1A9a and [REDACTED] gave the review of Thailand and Laos which was  
25X1A9a to be given by [REDACTED] sat in on the  
25X1A9a Friday afternoon Panel, while Mr. [REDACTED] was not able to be pre-  
sent. Mr. [REDACTED] could not be present to give his lecture, and  
he has not been able to do so, for one reason or another, since  
his last appearance in March; his schedule seems to be in eternal  
conflict with the Vietnam Orientation.

2. Course evaluation: Three factors made this an excellent  
Orientation; some elaboration is in order:

25X1A9a a. The members of the class asked more questions than  
25X1A9a has usually been the case; over half asked at least one question;  
and a third were regular and stimulating interrogators. Parti-  
cularly articulate were [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Furthermore, the  
questions were not restricted to personnel matters or the work  
situation in Saigon but ranged over substantive issues of war  
and politics in Southeast Asia.

b. The quality of lecturers was generally higher than  
in previous sessions. Significantly enough, none of the course  
critiques included any criticism of speakers for lack of prepara-  
tion, poor delivery or plain ignorance. As one student observed  
in his critique, "Speakers were almost without exception able to  
present their material in an informative and often colorful  
manner." Better presentations, of course, could have stimulated  
the more and better questioning mentioned above.

25X1A9a Among regular or frequent speakers in the course  
25X1A9a Messers [REDACTED] consistently keep  
25X1A9a their audiences with them. Especially effective first-timers  
25X1A9a were [REDACTED] an OCI analyst with a talent for rising  
25X1A9a above the minutiae of his material, [REDACTED] an  
"unpolished diamond" making his first public platform appear-  
ance, the frank, mordant [REDACTED] full of practical advice, and

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[REDACTED] - does he need introducing? The most impressive presentation was made by our first non-Agency speaker, Mr. William Marsh of the Department of State, who is as articulate and erudite an expositor of the U. S. role in Vietnam as has come down the pike.

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There is, of course, room for improvement. Two OCI analysts, [REDACTED] compress their material too much, the fault apparently of over-estimating their audience's knowledge of their subjects. [REDACTED] is a real dramatist, and a good one, but he is repetitious, and overly digressive; better organization will make him a popular lecturer. Messers [REDACTED] need to think a little more about giving some organization to all they know, and to speaking a little more formally.

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c. An event in Saigon, the establishment under Deputy Ambassador Porter of the Office of Civil Operations, provoked considerable comment and speculation by speakers and students alike inasmuch as the Vietnam Station is so greatly affected by the new office. Mr. [REDACTED] C/FE [REDACTED] was discussing the new set-up with the class apparently within hours of its becoming known within FE.

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3. Course critiques: Twelve of the [REDACTED] students wrote critiques. All but one were favorable, and the one made these cryptic comments: "Almost all information was covered in previous courses." and "Poor planning and utilization of time." My own reaction was: here is a morale case, probably one of the contract people who have been in training since February.

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Chief, Orientation and  
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